



Jewish Women's Archive

2017–2018 Annual Report







The mission of the Jewish Women's Archive is to document Jewish women's stories, elevate their voices, and inspire them to be the agents of change.

"Stories are all that hold us to the ground.
They are what we are and have, in the end, and the
Jewish Women's Archive collects and curates many
stories that are dear to my heart—and my teaching."

—Member of JWA's Academic Advisory Council, asking friends on Facebook to donate to JWA in honor of her birthday

"Be it the mission, the people, or both, JWA is extraordinary, and brings to it a sense of purpose and love that creates an indescribable atmosphere of earning and laughter. This experience has been truly life changing ... a 'shehecheyanu moment'.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!"

-2018 JWA Intern

"Having resources such as the Jewish Women's Archive helps shine a light on people and ideas that are often marginalized and provides resources and a community for educators doing this work."

—Jewish educator and Twersky Award winner

"JWA's podcast makes me feel connected to other Jewish women, to my past, to my mom and the rest of my family, to my Jewish community, to my womanhood."

—Podcast subscriber

Dear Friends,

We are pleased to share with you the programs, activities, and accomplishments of the Jewish Women's Archive during its 2017-2018 fiscal year—and to thank you for your vital partnership in helping JWA achieve its mission.

It was a year in which truths that are central to JWA's mission and work became visible to the wider world in new ways. As the #MeToo movement ignited in Fall 2017, we witnessed how women's stories, shared and amplified, can change the world. Following the tragic school shooting in



Florida in February 2018, we saw the inspiring power of young people to lead social movements. And as our culture became increasingly divisive, it was evident how including and elevating diverse voices is necessary for productive civic dialogue. Over the course of the year, JWA's central premise proved to be more apt than ever: that the echoes of history reverberate in our own time, and that we can draw strength, clarity, and empathy from knowing our past and the stories of others.



As these events were unfolding, JWA was there to capture and contextualize them.

We created a #MeToo Archive, inviting Jewish women to submit their #MeToo stories for safekeeping, and to help build a larger communal narrative. JWA's Rising

Voices Fellows showed solidarity with their fellow teen activists by using their writing and words to advocate for change in gun laws. And we partnered with Jewish social justice organizations to spotlight the underrepresented stories of Jewish women of color in #ShareHerStory. In these and many other ways, JWA's unique nexus of feminism, Judaism, history, and social justice provided a lens for understanding and action in our world today.

Other highlights of JWA's work in 2017-2018 include:

- Sharing the stories of "ordinary extraordinary" women in two new collections: We Celebrate and Boston's Soviet Jewry Movement:
- Cultivating young Jewish leaders in the fifth cohort of the Rising Voices Fellowship;
- Exploring the diversity of Jewish women's impact and experiences—from peace activists to Hollywood producers in seven new episodes of JWA's podcast, Can We Talk?, and hosting our first-ever live podcast event;
- Elevating diverse voices on the JWA blog, Jewish Women, Amplified, relaunched with a new name and new features;
- Initiating an important update and redesign of the *Encyclopedia* of Jewish Women, the most visited resource on jwa.org;
- Creating opportunities for connection and rich conversation at numerous events in the community; and
- Shaping conversations about Jewish feminist leadership in national media.

Alongside timely programming, we worked to position the organization internally and externally for growth. In FY18, JWA's Board of Directors began a visioning and strategic-planning process, the result of which will provide a focused road map for the next three years. JWA was also selected for Project Accelerate, a two-year fellowship for high-performing Jewish organizations poised to enter a new stage. This fellowship provides JWA with capacity-building opportunities and matching funds—and is a timely opportunity that aligns well with our strategic plans for organizational growth.

In 2017-2018, the work that JWA has always done—amplifying women's stories to help people understand their past, listen and connect with others in the present, and make change for the future took on new relevance. It is affirming to see JWA's commitment to a more inclusive narrative and discourse taken up by the wider world. Thank you for making this possible with your visionary support of the Jewish Women's Archive—over the past year, and into the future.

Rachel Bendit

Co-Chair.

Board of Directors

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Co-Chair.

Board of Directors

Judith Rosenbaum

Executive Director

JWA's 2017-2018 Year at a Glance

1.6 MILLION PEOPLE



visited jwa.org for information, ideas, and inspiration

jwa.org visitors came from



JWA trained

13

RISING VOICES FELLOWS



who joined

RVF ALUMNAE nationwide

More than

35,000 PEOPLE



read the
Rising Voices Fellows'
ideas and opinions on
jwa.org

In 2017-2018

More than **20,000** PEOPLE









followed JWA on social media

209,000 PEOPLE



read *Jewish Women, Amplified,* the JWA blog



JWA's podcast *CanWe Talk?* was downloaded

28,000 times

JWA worked with



42

PARTNER
ORGANIZATIONS
AROUND THE WORLD

JWA presented at

27



EVENTS, CONFERENCES, AND WORKSHOPS

42 PEOPLE

submitted photos of themselves wearing a JWA t-shirt to a rally



JWA shared its educational resources with more than



2,700 EDUCATORS

7,435 PEOPLE



engaged with Jewish women's history by taking a JWA quiz



295
PEOPLE

made a gift to JWA in someone's honor

The Jewish Women's Archive thanks the following individuals, foundations, and corporations for their support during fiscal year 2018. These pages reflect gifts made between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018.

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Panel participants at JWA's live podcast event on *The Red Tent*. Left to right: Rev. Gloria White-Hammond, Rabbi Liza Stern, author Anita Diamant, Judith Rosenbaum, and podcast host-producer Nahanni Rous

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Judith Rosenbaum with guests at a JWA reception, May 2018

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We applaud you and thank you for your support!



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* As of July 1, 2018

Unless otherwise noted, all photos are from jwa.org or JWA collections.

Cover photos (clockwise): 2017–2018 Rising Voices Fellows at their winter retreat; Judith Rosenbaum with 2017 Twersky Educator Award winner Tali Putterman; JWA Associate Director of Programs and Education Larisa Klebe teaching a seminar; author Anita Diamant, Judith Rosenbaum, and Nahanni Rous at JWA's podcast event, May 2018; a JWA fan with her JWA tote bag.

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